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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4243
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 002109

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STATE FOR EUR/ERA AND EUR/AGS - SAINT-ANDRE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/17/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [EUN](#) [KN](#) [AU](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO AUSTRIA: GAERC AND NORTH KOREA

REF: A. STATE 114605

[1](#)B. STATE 115346

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Gregory E. Phillips. Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) EconPolCouns delivered reftel demarches on July 14 to Austrian MFA European correspondent Andreas Riecken and deputy European Correspondent Klaus Famira. Riecken and Famira made the following substantive comments.

[1](#)2. (C) Iraq has been taken off the agenda, although there will likely be a " cursory " discussion at lunch, Riecken said. If the topic comes up, he added, discussion would focus on support for the International Compact on Iraq.

[1](#)3. (C) On Lebanon/Hizballah, Riecken and Famira stressed that the Finnish characterization of the Israeli action in Lebanon as "disproportionate" was a Presidency statement -- that is, it was not subject to coordination among the 25. The wide difference of views within the EU on the Middle East made it very difficult to produce common language, they said. Riecken and Famira noted that the Finns tended to be "outspoken."

[1](#)4. (C) On Gaza, it had been the intention to try to start the flow of assistance this week. This "might be difficult now," Riecken and Famira said.

[1](#)5. (C) Iran is also on the agenda. The EU plans to finalize language for council conclusions on Monday, July 17, after the G-8 meeting. It is clear that the council conclusions will include a call for a dialogue on human rights, Famira pointed out.

[1](#)6. (C) North Korea was not on the agenda, and there had been no papers in the Foreign Minister's briefing book on this issue. Riecken and Famira expressed gratitude for our points, and said they would make sure the Minister had them in hand.
Phillips